

**Purpose** This 20-item, Likert-type questionnaire was developed to study attitudes toward aggression in children and young adults. The first section of the scale presents short scenarios in which one child behaves in a verbally or physically aggressive manner toward a second child. The respondent is asked to rate the acceptability of several different aggressive responses on the part of the second child. In the second section, individuals indicate how acceptable they find generally aggressive behaviors (e.g., insulting or pushing others). As sleep disturbances in children often occur in tandem with behavioral issues like aggression [1], such an instrument possesses considerable clinical and research utility in the sleep medicine field.

**Population for Testing** The scale has been validated with a population ranging from 6 to 30 years of age.

**Administration** Respondents give self-report answers to questions posed by an interviewer. The testing process requires 5–10 min.

**Reliability and Validity** Developers have found an internal consistency ranging from .65 to .85 [2].

**Obtaining a Copy** Use of the scale requires the permission of its developers.

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**Scoring** For each question, respondents use a scale ranging from 1 (“perfectly OK”) to 4 (“really wrong”) to indicate the acceptability of certain aggressive behaviors. For several items, the wording has been changed from positive to negative, and scoring is reversed (4 is “perfectly OK,” while 1 is “really wrong”). This encourages respondents to attend to each question carefully, and prevents them from answering with a set response. Scores are tallied and an average score is found for the scale as a whole, giving a General Approval of Aggression score. Additionally, scores are given on several different subscales by calculating the average of just the items included in that category. Subscales include Approval of Retaliation (Strong and Weak) and Approval of Retaliation (Against Males/Against Females).

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## References

1. Blunden, S., Lushington, K., & Kennedy, D. (2001). Cognitive and behavioural performance in children with sleep-related obstructive breathing disorders. *Sleep Medicine Reviews*, 5(6), 447–461.
2. Huesmann, L. R., Guerra, N. G., Miller, L., & Zelli, A. (1992). The role of social norms in the development of aggression. In H. Zumkley & A. Fraczek (Eds.), *Socialization and aggression* (139–151). New York: Springer.

## Representative Studies Using Scale

- Henry, D., Guerra, N., Huesmann, R., Tolan, P., VanAcker, R., & Eron, L. (2000). Normative influences on aggression in urban elementary school classrooms. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 28(1), 59–81.
- Souweidane, V., & Huesmann, L. R. (1999). The influence of American urban culture on the development of normative beliefs about aggression in Middle-Eastern immigrants. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 27(2), 239–254.